

War, he would later spend 3 years as a civilian POW in World War II.

When his days of being an active participant in two World Wars ended, he eventually settled into a quiet existence in Charles Town where his tractor, his farm, as well as his friends and family were enough to sustain him.

As I got to know him, I learned that his deep appreciation for books and culture was an important part of who he was. He spoke multiple languages, enjoyed talking about culture more than he did war, and was thoughtful and interested to the end.

To most of us though, Frank in the end amounted to so much more than just a man who had lived a life that was as interesting as it was unpredictable.

Frank became a symbol for the entire war for the nearly 4.5 million U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who defeated the Central Powers in the first Great War.

As the last living connection to the First World War, his importance in our collective psyche grew with each passing year. He seemed impossibly stubborn and tough and his long and wonderful life made him all the more special.

Towards the end of his life, more and more people understood just how privileged we all were to keep company with the last surviving Doughboy.

He was a link to a long ago war, not forgotten but so far in the past that the pictures that we think of when we conjure up images are all grainy and tattered.

It made it all the more amazing that Frank was the only man who could honestly look any of us in the eye and say "this is what the war was like."

More than 116,000 Americans died in World War I. Frank was an adamant proponent of remembering these heroes by establishing a National World War I Memorial on the National Mall.

I agree and support him on that effort which is why I am the proud sponsor of the bipartisan bill to truly honor our World War I veterans. The bill would create a commission to plan for the upcoming centennial, and it would rededicate the DC memorial as the DC and National World War I memorial. It would also dedicate the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, MO. I agree with Frank Buckles on the importance of remembering our veterans and want to say again here today: I am more determined than ever to make this happen and will not give up until we get that bill passed.

Finally, I want to extend my sympathies again to Frank's daughter, Susannah Buckles Flanagan. She has lovingly looked after Frank and helped make sure his last years were lived with dignity and care.

Frank, you will be missed.

REMEMBERING CÉSAR ESTRADA CHÁVEZ

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the

life and achievements of César Estrada Chávez, a man who led our nation in the struggle for civil rights and whose efforts helped create a better future for all Americans.

On March 31, 2011, we will celebrate César Chávez Day to remember his courageous fight for justice and the lessons he taught us about the power people have when they join together to face the challenges before them.

Colorado's Hispanic community heard that message loud and clear during the days of the civil rights movement. Our State was an important stage for engaging Mexican-Americans in that time. Not only did Chávez-led efforts bring better living and working conditions to farm workers of all backgrounds in Colorado, from the Eastern Plains to the San Luis Valley and the Western Slope, but this movement also ignited service veterans, students and community leaders in Colorado to champion a cause that promoted equality, justice and empowerment. Leaders like Colorado's own Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, who as a young student labored in the beet fields and later became a respected poet and leader in the civil rights movement, joined an effort to speak for those who felt they had no voice and empowered those who felt helpless. Gonzales found strength in youth empowerment, and he dedicated his life to helping Hispanic youth in Colorado and the Southwest realize their value in their communities. The legacy of these leaders can be seen today in the many organizations that grew from this movement and which continue to inspire youth and veterans of all backgrounds to develop their talents and skills for a brighter future.

Our Western heritage is richer for the hard fought contributions of Rodolfo Gonzalez, César Chávez and others. These figures drew on their determination and hard work to cultivate a more informed youth and sow the seeds of civil justice in the West. Chávez embodied an unparalleled commitment to millions who worked the land to provide for their families and for a growing country. With his father unable to work, Chávez himself labored in the fields to support his family and provide a better life for them. He worked under poor conditions and earned low wages, facing the same struggles as so many migrant workers. Chávez's story serves as a testament to a community searching for justice. It was his resolute leadership that brought national attention to the unacceptable working conditions and unfair pay faced by farm workers in the West and across America.

Through nonviolent protest, Chávez mobilized and improved the lives of millions, and he is a role model for Coloradans, and all Americans. This March, communities throughout Colorado will once again come together to honor his legacy and the continued fight for justice. Today, I am proud to rise on behalf of Coloradans, to honor those continuing his work and to acknowledge Chávez and the vision cap-

tured in his own uniting words, "We have seen the future, and the future is ours."

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN J. GOOLS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I rise today on behalf of myself and Senator LEVIN to pay tribute to Stephen J. Gools, a tireless champion of causes important to senior citizens and an agent of positive social change throughout his long and distinguished career. Indeed, there are many across Michigan that have benefited greatly from his many efforts over the years.

Since March 2000, Steve has served as director of the AARP Michigan State Office in Lansing, leading a team of 11 staff and serving more than 1.4 million AARP members in the Great Lakes State. Under his leadership, AARP Michigan has been enormously successful in protecting consumers, championing the rights of those over the age of 50 in communities across our State and helping AARP members live their lives to the fullest. His innovative volunteer training and development conferences have served as the gold standard for State management within AARP.

Prior to joining AARP, Steve served as communications director for the Michigan Democratic Party and held senior management positions with Michigan candidates. Steve worked for me as my communications director and played an instrumental role in electing me to Congress. In addition, he worked for the bipartisan Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition and the U.S. House Budget Committee Task Force on Community and Natural Resources.

Throughout his professional career, Steve has been a role model and shining example of leadership, intellectual curiosity, courage and determination. He always met his responsibilities with warmth, humor, and infectious enthusiasm.

To honor his work and leadership, AARP has announced the establishment of the Stephen J. Gools Award for Social Change. The annual award will recognize a Michigan individual or organization that demonstrates outstanding achievement in improving the lives of the 50+ population in our State.

It is most fitting that the award will bear the name of a man who has championed the causes of justice, compassion, and equality throughout his life. The award will encourage and recognize those who seek to follow in his footsteps.

We are grateful to him, his wife Kimberly, and his family for the work he has done for the people of Michigan and our country. He has had a lasting impact on the lives of many, and we honor his dedicated service.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN RHYNO

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Madam President, I rise today to recognize John Rhyno of North Attleboro,